

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM ADDRESSES AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

BALL AND ANNOUNCES BICENTENNIAL PROGRAMS

1. SUMMARY: ON JULY 4 PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM ADDRESSED AN OVERFLOW BLACK-TIE DINNER DANCE OF 540 GUESTS SPONSORED BY AMERICAN SOCIETY AND AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AT WENTWORTH HOTEL, SYDNEY. THIS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FUNCTION FEATURED A SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND A RESPONSE BY AMBASSADOR GREEN. IN HIS STATEMENT, WHITLAM ANNOUNCED:

(A) AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT BICENTENNIAL EVENTS;

(B) VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER'S ACCEPANCE OF AN INVITATION TO VISIT AUSTRALIA, PERHAPS IN MARCH NEXT YEAR;

(C) COMMENDED AMBASSADOR GREEN FOR HIS ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT A NEW FELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AUSTRALI, "OF DEEPER MUTUAL RESPECT, OF MUTURITY, OF HEALTHY CANDOR, OF REAL FRIENDSHIP BASED ON A FRANK RECOGNITION OF OUR PARTICULAR NATIONAL INTERESTS."

2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S SPEECH, FULL TEXT OF WHICH FORWARDED Y POUCH:

3. (A) "TWO YEARS AGO - ON JULY 19, 1973 - THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, IN A MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA, INVITED THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE TO JOIN IN UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMEMORATING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY. THE INVITATION SAID IN PART: QTE THE PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES HOPE THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES CAN USE THE OCCASION TO FOSTER NOT ONLY PERSONAL CONTACTS BUT THE WIDEST POSSIBLE

RANGE OF FRUITFUL INTERCHANGE AMONG PEOPLE IN THE REALMS
BOTH OF IDEAS AND OF ACTIONS UNQTE."

(B) "THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THAT INVITATION
WITH THE UTMOST READINESS AND PLEASURE, SO YOUR FUNCTION THIS
EVENING COMES ON THE EVE OF WIDER AND MORE ELABORATE CELEBRATIONS
PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR. THOSE CELEBRATIONS WILL HAVE THE SUPPORT
AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IN A NUMBER OF
WAYS AND IN A MOMENT I SHALL SAY SOMETHING OF WHAT WE PROPOSE
TO DO."

(C) "THIS WILL BE ONE OF THE LAST TIMES WHEN WE WILL HAVE
THE COMPANY - AT LEAST IN HIS PRESENT CAPACITY - OF A GREAT
AMERICAN, A GREAT DIPLOMATIST, A GREAT FRIEND OF AUSTRALIA,
AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN.....HE WAS APPOINTED UNITED
STATES AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA IN 1973, SHORTLY AFTER THE
CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, AT A TIME, I CONFESS, WHEN IT WAS EASY
FOR OUR TWO NATIONS, OLD FRIENDS AS THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN, TO
MISUNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S PURPOSES. THERE WERE EVEN SOME WHO
LABELLED HIM A HATCHET MAN, WHATEVER THAT MAY MEAN. I SUPPOSE
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ALL OF US MUST USE THE HATCHET. GEORGE
WASHINGTON IS SAID TO HAVE DONE SO.

(D) "IT IS NOT SO LONG SINCE THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF
SILLY AND MISCHIEVOUS TALK IN THIS COUNTRY ABOUT A STRAINED
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AMERICA AND AUSTRALIA. YOU DON'T HEAR THAT
TALK ANY MORE, AND IT WAS NEVER REALLY TRUE, EXCEPT IN THE MOST
SUPERFICIAL SENSE. OF COURSE, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO PLAY UP
ISOLATED STATEMENTS, BUT THE REALLY ENDURING QUALITIES IN OUR
RELATIONSHIP HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED AND HAVE NEVER BEEN
CHALLENGED. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP IS THE
SAME AS IT ALWAYS WAS. IT IS NOT; BUT THE CHANGES IN TONE,
IN QUALITY, IN EMPHASIS, HAVE BEEN ALTOGETHER BENEFICIAL AND
WERE IN FACT INEVITABLE. NO ONE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED AND DESCRIBED
THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP - ONE OF DEEPER MUTUAL RESPECT, OF
MATURITY, OF HEALTHY CANDOR, OF REAL FRIENDSHIP BASED ON A
FRANK RECOGNITION OF OUR PARTICULAR NATIONAL INTERESTS - WITH
GREATER ELOQUENCE THAN MARSHALL GREEN. NO ONE HAS DONE MORE
TO BRING ABOUT THESE CHANGES. OUR RELATIONSHIP IS VERY MUCH
STRONGER AS A RESULT.
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(E) "IT IS RARE THAT I AM ABLE TO QUOTE THE PRESS IN
SUPPORT OF MY GOVERNMENT - ESPECIALLY THESE DAYS - BUT I THINK
THE FINANCIAL REVIEW PUT THE SITUATION FAIRLY IN THESE WORDS
ON TUESDAY:
QTE THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ALLIANCE HAS
WEATHERED THIS FLUID PERIOD REMARKABLY WELL.
A PERIOD IN WHICH ONE SIDE WAS STRUGGLING TO
ESTABLISH A MORE INDEPENDENT IDENTITY AND THE
OTHER TO MAINTAIN ITS POWER AND PRESTIGE IN A
RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD.
QTE MR. GREEN ACKNOWLEDGED THIS AND PLAYED A
VERY EXPERIENCED HAND IN CANBERRA. HE WAS
PROFESSIONAL ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT THE

INTERESTS OF BASICALLY LIKE-MINDED NATIONS
WOULD ULTIMATELY TRANSCEND A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT,
CLASH OF PERSONALITIES AND MINOR DIFFERENCES
IN POLICY. UNQTE.

(F) A"AMBASSADOR GREEN AND I HAVE HAD THE HONOR TO BE
JOINT PATRONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN FESTIVAL TO BE
HELD IN SYDNEY NEXT MARCH AND APRIL AS PART OF THE BICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATIONS.....I COMMEND ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THESE
PLANS. TONIGHT, HOWEVER, I WANT TO MENTION SOME OF THE
SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR WHICH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS
RESPONSIBLE.

"FIRST, I HAVE HAD THE HONOR TO INVITE VICE-PRESIDENT
NELSON RECKEFELLER TO VISIT AUSTRALIA FOR THE FESTIVAL. HE
HAS ACCEPTED. I AM HOPEFUL THAT HIS VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE
IN MARCH."

4. IN ADDITION WHITLAM MENTIONED THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC
PROGRAMS TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IN
COMMEMORATION OF AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL.

(A) ENDOWMENT OF A CHAIR OF AUSTRALIAN STUDIES AT
HARVARD.

(B) SPONSORSHIP OF A FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM TO FACILITATE
NON-ACADEMIC EXCHANGE VISITS INVOLVING FARMERS,
BUSINESSMEN, CIVIC LEADERS AND TRADE UNIONS.

(C) AN AMERICAN TOUR BY THE AUSTRALIAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA
AS WELL AS OTHER ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITS.

(D) FUNDING VISITS BY AUSTRALIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN
SPECIFIC EVENTS ARRANGED BY AMERICAN STATES,
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CITIES AND INSTITUTIONS, FOR EXAMPLE THE SMITH-
SONIAN INSTITUTE WHICH HAS INVITED AN AUSTRALIAN
EXHIBIT TO TOUR ITS MUSEUMS.

(E) ERECTION OF A MEMORIAL IN CANBERRA TO COMMEMORATE
THE CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN
WHO DESIGNED THE CITY OF CANBERRA IN 1912.

5. COMMENT: WHITLAM WAS IN GOOD FORM AND SEEMED TO WELCOME
THIS PUBLIC APPEARANCE WHICH COULD ONLY BE A POLITICAL ASSET
TO HIM AT THIS MOMENT OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL DISARRAY. IT
GAVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE IN A NON-CONTROVERSIAL
MANNER HIS GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE
UNITED STATES WHICH REMAINS A FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL ASSET IN A
COUNTRY WHERE THE BULK OF THE PEOPLE FEEL A CLOSE ATTACHMENT
TO THE AMERICANS. HIS ONLY VEILED REFERENCE TO THE CURRENT
AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION WAS HIS WRY REFERENCE
TO THE LABEL OF "HATCHET MAN" WHICH HAD SOMETIMES BEEN
APPLIED TO GEORGE WASHINGTON AND AMBASSADOR GREEN WITH
WHOM THE PRIME MINISTER ASSOCIATED HIMSELF BY REMARKING
"THAT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ALL OF US MUST USE THE HATCHET",
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WHICH WILL NOT BE LOST ON DR. CAIRNS.
HANNAH

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